Creation of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

1828. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that in spite of much publicity, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has not yet taken shape;

(b) what are the details of stumbling blocks put up by the bureaucrats not interested in the creation of NPPA;

(c) whether some bureaucrats are alleged to be in collusion with drug manufacturers to make illegal money; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) The NPPA was established on 29th August, 1997 and is fully functional since 4th September, 1997.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

Payment of Compensation to Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1829. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the remaining amount of Rs. 60.50 crore out of the initial amount of Rs. 163.10 crore which was later on increased to the tune of Rs. 258.00 crore under the action plan initiated for the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy since April, 1990, is proposed to be given by the Central Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Central Government, while demanding compensation from the multinational company, Union Carbide, had categorically told the American Court that the entire 56 wards of Bhopal were gas-affected; and

(c) if not, the number of wards mentioned in the court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) The outlay for the Action Plan, initially at Rs. 163.10 crores has been enhanced in stages, after considering the State Government's proposals, to Rs. 258 crores and as recommended by the Finance Commission, 75% of the expenditure is met by the Central Government and the rest by the State Government. The Central Government has so far released Rs. 166.37 crores. Provision for the remaining amount has been made but the releases can only be considered after the State Government fulfils the conditions for the Grant like submission of Audit Certificates on the expenditure incurred and achievement of physical and financial targets.

(b) and (c) The complaint for obtaining compensation filed in the American Court was for all the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, unrelated to the number of wards.

दिल्ली के वसंत कुंज क्षेत्र में प्रदूषण

1830. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि वसंत कुंज, नई दिल्ली के ब्लॉक बी०-4 और बी०-3 में सहारा रेस्टोरेंट के सामने वाले भूखण्ड में प्रदूषण फैलने से संबंधित घटनाएं हो रही हैं;

(ख) क्या बी-4 और बी-3 ब्लाकों के उत्तर में भी प्रदूषण फैलने से संबंधित घटनाएं हो रही हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इन दोनों भूखण्डों को अधिग्रहीत कर लिया है और यदि हां, तो इन्हें किन कार्यों के लिए प्रयोग में लाया जाएगा?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर प्रस्तुत कर दी जाएगी।